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# United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6475

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June 24, 1993

SSCI# 93-3013

Mrs. Barbara Colby

STAT

Dear Mrs. Colby

This is in reply to your letter of May 21, 1993 urging support for enactment of H.R. 981, a bill to provide benefits for certain former spouses of Central Intelligence Agency personnel not covered by existing CIA former spouses legislation. I regret the lateness of this reply, which was occasioned by a delay in obtaining cost figures for the legislation from the CIA.

There appears to be a significant difference of views between the Association of American Foreign Service Women (AAFSW) and the CIA with respect to the number of individuals who would be eligible for the former spouses benefits under H.R. 981. Consequently there is a significant difference in their respective views about the cost of implementing the legislation.

The AAFSW has advised that the number of persons to whom H.R. 981 would extend former spouses benefits is only in the dozens. The CIA estimates, however, that the number could be as high as 400. The CIA estimated that the cost of the unfunded liability created by enactment of H.R. 981 would be approximately \$6 million per year or a total cost of \$90 million over a fifteen year period, noting that these are rough approximations. The CIA advised that its only concern with the legislation is its cost.

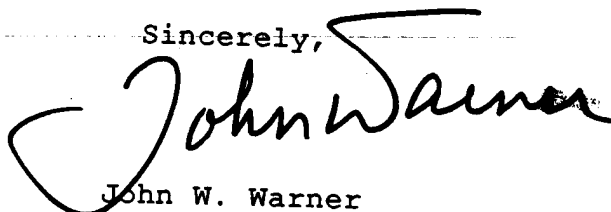
Because enactment of the legislation would create an entitlement and involve direct spending, it is subject to a point of order under the Budget Enforcement Act against its consideration in the Senate. Although the existence of such a point of order does not make it impossible to proceed with the legislation in the Senate, it does make it much more difficult.

I am advised that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives included the provisions of H.R. 981 in its version of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994. If the Senate receives the authorization bill from the House of Representatives containing the provisions of H.R. 981, those provisions ultimately will be the subject of a House-Senate conference to fashion the final authorization bill to be passed by both Houses. The best route to enactment for the

provisions of H.R. 981 is through adoption of those provisions in the House-Senate conference on the authorization bill that will occur later this year.

I appreciate your taking the time to let me know your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Warner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John W. Warner